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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* (Daudin, 1800): First record of the genus and species for the state of Piauí, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: The geographic distribution of *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* comprises Amazon and Orinoco basins of South America, Guianas, eastern Brazil and Trinidad. Herein, we report for the first time the occurrence of *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* and of the genus for the state of Piauí.

The genus *Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838 is characterized by small tree frogs with snout sharply inclined posteroventrally in lateral view. The skin on the dorsum is smooth, and that on the belly is granular; the tympanum is indistinct. The pupil is horizontally elliptical. The hands and feet are webbed; males have a huge, median, subgular vocal sac and nuptial pads on the thumbs (Rodriguez and Duelman 1994).

The genus is composed of fourteen species, three of them with distribution associated to the Amazon basin [*Sphaenorhynchus carneus* (Cope, 1868); *Sphaenorhynchus dorisae* (Goin, 1957) and *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* (Daudin, 1800)], ten to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest [*Sphaenorhynchus botocudo* Caramaschi, Almeida, and Gasparini, 2009; *Sphaenorhynchus bromelicola* Bokermann, 1966; *Sphaenorhynchus caramaschii* Toledo, Garcia, Lingnau, and Haddad, 2007; *Sphaenorhynchus mirim* Caramaschi, Almeida, and Gasparini, 2009; *Sphaenorhynchus orophilus* (Lutz and Lutz, 1938); *Sphaenorhynchus palustris* Bokermann, 1966; *Sphaenorhynchus pauloalvini* Bokermann, 1973; *Sphaenorhynchus planicola* (Lutz and Lutz, 1938); *Sphaenorhynchus prasinus* Bokermann, 1973 and *Sphaenorhynchus surdus* (Cochran, 1953)], and one with unknown distribution [*Sphaenorhynchus platycephalus* (Werner, 1894)] (Frost 2010).

Sphaenorhynchus lacteus (Daudin, 1800) is a small tree frog characterized by the snout pointed in dorsal view, the fingers one-half and the toes four-fifths webbed, dermal flaps present lateral to the cloacal opening but absent on the heels. The dorsum is uniform green with a dark brown canthal stripe, the belly and outer margins of the limbs are white, the ventral surfaces of the limbs are bluish green and the iris is pale creamy bronze (Rodriguez and Duelman 1994).

This species is found in flooded plains, floating meadows, ponds and large lagoons with floating vegetation (especially *Eichhornia* sp.) in forest clearings, at forest edges and in savannah, where males call from herbaceous vegetation just above the surface of the water. It has also been found under the leaf litter in tropical rainforest, and in seasonally flooded agricultural land. At night, this semi aquatic frog congregates at permanent or semi-permanent ponds in open areas (La Marca *et al*. 2008).

In the available literature, in Brazil the species occurs in the north (Acre, Amazonas, Pará and Rôndonia states) (Gordo 2003; Caramaschi *et al*. 2009) and northeast (state of Maranhão) (La Marca *et al*. 2008; Caramaschi *et al*. 2009).

During field work in July 2010 in the municipality of Barras, state of Piauí (4°14'40" S, 42°17'40" W), adult and juvenile specimens of *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* were found under the leaves of *Ipomea asarifolia*, about 200 m away from the nearest temporary pond (Figure 1).

The municipality of Barras is characterized by having an area with fragmented and irregularly distributed environments. The vegetation is characterized by transitional vegetation composed of "Scrubs" from

FIGURE 1. Adult male of *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* (ZUFRJ 12288) (SVL 29 mm) from municipality of Barras, Piauí state, Brazil. Photo: R. A. Benício.

savannah (Cerrado), "Caatinga" and "Cocais". The urban area presents fragments of semideciduous seasonal forest, savannah and gallery forest.

Specimens were deposited in the Amphibian Collection of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (ZUFRJ 12288-12893). The permit for collecting zoological material (number 12164-2) was provided by Instituto Chico Mendes (ICMBio) – Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais e Renováveis (IBAMA). This is the first record of the genus *Sphaenorhyncus* for transitional areas between Cerrado and Caatinga domains, and for the state of Piauí, extending its distribution approximately 280 km southeast in a straight line from the city of São Luís. (02°36'66" S, 44° 13'02" W), Maranhão (Silva, pers. comm.) (Figure 2).

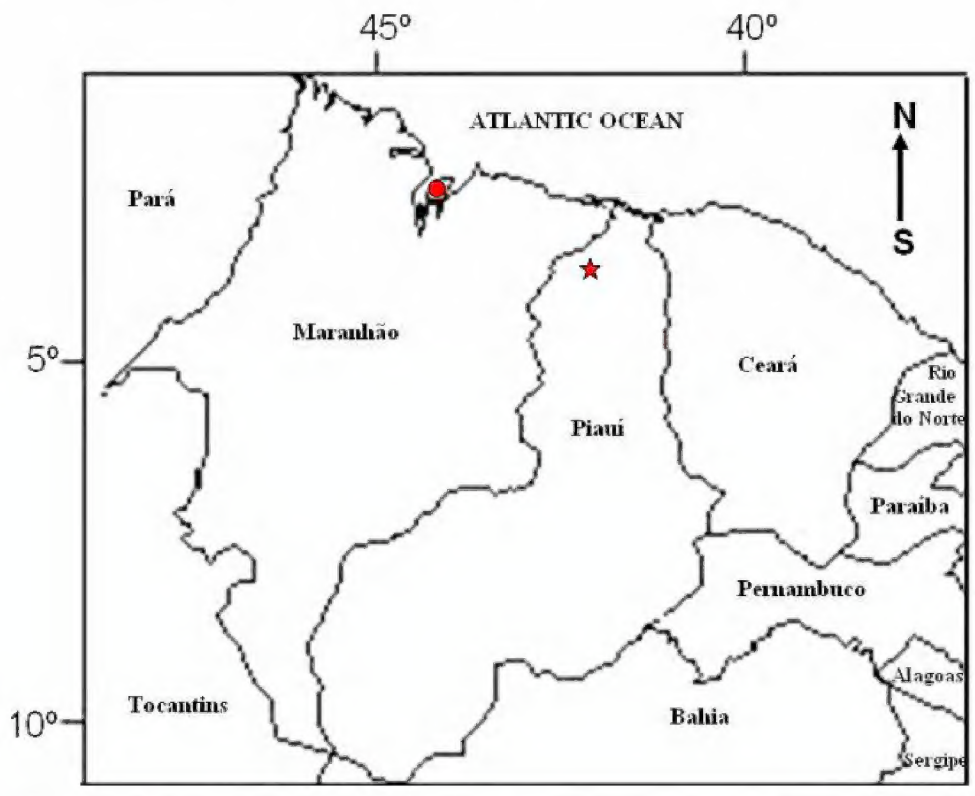

FIGURE 2. Distribution record of *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* in the municipality of Barras, state of Piauí, Brazil (red star), and the nearest previous known register, in municipality of São Luís, state of Maranhão (red dot).

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